



LCI Study Fact Sheet

Program Summary

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Board adopted policies in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) proposal in May 1999 to provide funding for investment studies and transportation projects located in activity and town centers in the region. This program of studies and projects has become known as the **Livable Centers Initiative (LCI)**. *The focus of the program is to encourage increased residential development, mixed-uses and connectivity in activity and town centers.* Due to the success of the initial program, the ARC Board authorized the extension of the LCI program as part of the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) with an added focus on **corridors** and emerging centers as well as town centers and activity centers.

For purposes of this program, **corridors** are defined as relatively short (1/2 to 4 mile) lengths of major regional roadways. These studies are intended to focus on corridors developing at an urban scale, with mixed-use development, walkability and multi-modal transportation choices. The emphasis is on creating livable environments as well as efficient vehicular movement and more efficient utilization of existing infrastructure.

Program Goals

The LCI program was established with 10 goals that can be summarized as three general concepts: mixed land use, transportation options, and public involvement.

1. Encourage a diversity of medium to high-density, mixed income neighborhoods, employment, shopping and recreation choices at the transit stations, corridor, activity and town center level.
2. Provide access to a range of travel modes including transit, roadways, walking and biking to enable access to all uses within the study area.
3. Encourage integration of uses and land use policy/regulation with transportation investments to maximize the use of alternate modes.
4. Through transportation investments increase the desirability of redevelopment of land served by existing infrastructure at transit stations, corridors, activity and town centers.
5. Preserve the historical characteristics of transit stations, corridors, activity and town centers and create a community identity.
6. Develop a community-based transportation investment program at the transit station, corridor, activity and town center level that will identify capital projects, which can be funded in the annual Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).
7. Provide transportation infrastructure incentives for jurisdictions to take local actions to implement the resulting transit station, corridor, activity or town center study goals.

8. Provide for the implementation of the Regional Development Plan (RDP) policies, quality growth initiatives and Best Development Practices in the study area and at the regional level.
9. Develop a local planning outreach process that promotes the involvement of all stakeholders particularly low income, minority and traditionally underserved populations
10. Provide planning funds for development of transit station, corridor, activity and town centers that showcase the integration of land use policies/regulations and transportation investments with urban design tools.

Conceptual Context

LCI studies are required to address these goals within the context of three guiding concepts.

- 1) Encouraging a diversity of residential neighborhoods, employment, shopping and recreation choices at the activity center and town center level; giving housing a strong focus and creating mixed-income neighborhoods and supporting the concept of “aging in place”
- 2) Providing access to a range of travel modes including transit, roadways, walking and biking to enable access to all uses within the study area.
- 3) Developing an outreach process that promotes the involvement of all stakeholders (including those not often involved in such planning efforts).

LCI Study Products

LCI studies are intended to result in documents and plans that specifically address the following areas:

1. Efficiency/feasibility of land uses and mix appropriate for future growth including new and/or revised land use regulations needed to complete the development program.
2. Transportation demand reduction measures.
3. Internal mobility requirements – traffic calming, pedestrian circulation, transit circulation, bicycle circulation including safety and security of pedestrians.
4. Mixed-income housing, job/housing match and social issues.
5. Continuity of local streets in study area and development of a network of minor roads.
6. Need/identification of future transit circulation systems.
7. Connectivity of transportation system to other centers.
8. Center development organization and management, promotion and economic restructuring.
9. Stakeholder participation/support.
10. Public and private investment policy.